

## **“What Everyone Should Know About the Holy Spirit” Part 2 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

- Today's teaching will be part two of a series I've titled, "What Everyone Should Know About the Holy Spirit."
  - For the benefit of those who may not have been with us last week, we've launched a most fascinating study on the Holy Spirit.
  - More specifically we've embarked on an in depth study of the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit as well.
  - The main reason I chose the title for this series is because there's much controversy and confusion concerning the Holy Spirit.
  - Sadly, this controversy and confusion surrounding the Holy Spirit has led to in some cases, deep divisions in the body of Christ.
  - If you were to ask me what I thought was one of the causes for this divisiveness, I would have to say it's because of ignorance.
- 1. Christians can be ignorant about the gifts (Verses 1-3)**
- Here Paul tells them he doesn't want them to be ignorant about the gifts of the Holy Spirit nor let the past have undue influence.
- 2. There are different kinds of gifts and service (Verses 4-7)**
- v4-5 Paul says the same Spirit distributes different kinds of gifts and there are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.
  - v6 He goes on to say there are different kinds of workings but, in all of them and in everyone it is the same God that's at work.
  - v7 Paul then tells them the manifestation of the Holy Spirit is given to each and every one of us and it's for the common good.
  - Notice in verse four, it's different gifts, but the same Spirit, and in verse five, its different ministries, but the same Lord Jesus.
  - Then, in verse six, it's different workings, but the same God. The reason I point this out is that the Trinity is woven into all three.
  - In other words the gifts come by way of the Spirit, the ministries come by way of the Son, and the work is by way of the Father.
  - I do realize that the triune nature of God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit may seem like a firm grasp of the obvious.
  - However, as we looked at last week, the Holy Spirit is often times seen as a force and not as the third person of the Trinity.
  - The problem is if the Spirit is a force, I'll see it as how much of the Spirit I have, instead of how much of the Holy Spirit has me.
  - In order for us to really get a handle on what Paul is saying in our text today, we'll need to look at the original Greek language.
  - This because, knowing the meaning of certain words will be germane to our understanding of the workings of the Holy Spirit.
  - It's important to understand that Greek, the original language of the New Testament has a much larger lexicon than English.
  - A good example of this is our English word, love. In Greek, there are four words for love compared to English having only one.
  - First, Agape, is the Greek word for unconditional love, which God has for us, and second, Philia is Greek for brotherly love.
  - Third, Eros is Greek for sensual and physical love, and where we get erotic in English. Fourth is Storge, which is parental love.
  - Be that as it may, let's now look at the Greek words in our text today, starting with the word "gifts," which is in Greek charisma.
  - This is also where we get our English word for charismatic, and it's interesting to note that it comes from the Greek word charis.
  - Charis, which is the form of the word charisma, is the English word that's translated, "grace," which I see as being very apropos.
  - The second Greek word we'll quickly look at is in verse six, and it's the word, working, or activities, which in Greek is energema.
  - Energema is where we get our English words for energy, energetic, energize, etc., which speaks to the power of the Holy Spirit.
  - In other words, the manifestation of the Spirit energizes us in the different kinds of service and activities God enables us to do.
- Romans 12:6-8 -- 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.
- The reason I point this out is because there's an intersecting of Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 as it relates to these gifts.
  - In Romans, Paul says we're all given different gifts according to God's grace, such as prophesying proportionate to one's faith.
  - There's also, the gift of serving, gift of teaching, gift of encouraging, gift of giving, and gift of leading for a total of seven gifts.
  - While we will look at the gifts in more detail next week, I'm hoping you'll kindly indulge me for the remainder of our time today.
  - What I'd like to do briefly look at these seven unmerited gifts God gives by His grace, first, individually, and then collectively.
  - In so doing, I'm hoping that God may reveal which gift He has personally given to you so as to edify the body and glorify God.
  - First, is prophecy, which we'll look at next week; you know you have it if you're never happier than when speaking God's Word.
  - When one has a God given ability to speak a prophetic Word, into the life of another, it will be evidence of the gift of prophecy.
  - Those who are given this gift have this supernatural ability to connect the dots of scripture, to a specific situation in one's life.
  - The second one is the gift of serving; you know you have it if you're always throwing the rubbish, and or, washing the dishes.
  - It's interesting to note that some translations render this as the gift of ministry. By serving others, we're ministering to others.
  - If the gift of serving is your ministry you're never happier than when you're using this gift to serve the physical needs of others.
  - The third one is the gift of teaching; you'll know you have it when you preach and teach very long sermons from the pulpit.
  - You'll know you have this gift when you are given the supernatural ability to provide practical instruction from the Word of God.
  - It's similar in a way to the gift of prophecy, in that you're able to connect the dots of scripture, to a specific situation in one's life.
  - The fourth is encouragement, and you'll know you have it if your first response in certain situations is to encourage someone.
  - Some translations render this exhortation, and it carries with it the idea of encouraging people to be doers; not merely hearers.
  - Those with this gift can be perceived as being unloving because they tell you what you need to hear not what you want to hear.

- The fifth one is giving, and you'll know you have it if you're one who derives great joy in giving money and not boasting about it.
  - You'll also know you have the gift of giving if you also have the gift of getting, as God will abundantly supply this particular gift.
  - By the way, God only does this because He knows that we'll be good stewards and generous givers of what He entrusts to us.
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- The sixth is leading, and you'll know you have it when you find yourself with people who are actually following you on Twitter.
  - It's evidenced in how people will be trusting in, and following of, your leadership, as God has granted you this leadership gift.
  - However, it's interesting to note, that one must use this gift with diligence meaning that it requires a measure of perseverance.
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- The seventh one is mercy and you'll know you have it when you not only find it easy to show mercy you're cheerful doing it.
  - What comes packaged with this gift is a genuine compassion and sympathy for others such that you minister mercy to them.
  - Those with this gift derive great joy and fulfillment weeping with those who weep and showing mercy to those who are suffering.

In closing, let's look at all these gifts collectively. By way of illustration, let's say that my eight-year-old daughter Sabia notices that I need a glass of water and proceeds to bring one to me at the pulpit. Because her shoes had become untied, she trips and falls just as she's about to give it to me. Upon seeing this seven people rush to the front of the sanctuary and begin using their gifts. The one with the gift of prophecy will say something like, "Sabia, in the future, be prudent and foresee the danger of not having your shoes tied." The one with the gift of serving doesn't say anything they just grab some towels and get busy cleaning up the mess. The one with the gift of teaching will say something like; "Sabia, perhaps it would be wiser for you to purchase shoes that don't have shoelaces." The one with the gift of encouragement will say something like; "Sabia, don't be discouraged, we all stumble and fall, be encouraged." The one with the gift of giving says; "Sabia, here take this fifty dollars and go buy yourself some new Velcro shoes." The one with the gift of leading is the one who everyone looks to take the lead, and will say something like; "Sabia, just bring a bottle of water that has a lid on it instead." The one with the gift of mercy will give Sabia a hug and say something like; "it's OK, I know how you feel, don't be embarrassed, nobody's mad at you, I'm here for you."